# REGISTER OF CLASSIFICATION DECISIONS

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|---|---|
| **Title of Publication:** | The Teen Files |
| **Other Known Title:** | The Teen Files: Toilet Tarts |
| **Format:** | DVD |
| **Director/Author:** | Not Stated |
| **Producer/Publisher:** | Not Stated |
| **Country of Origin:** | USA |
| **Language:** | English |
| **Classification:** | Objectionable. |
| **Descriptive Note:** | Not Applicable |
| **Display Conditions:** | Not Applicable |
| **Date of entry in Register:** | 04 February 2005 |
| **Date of direction to issue a label:** | Not Applicable |
| **Applicant:** | Comptroller of Customs |
| **Applicant to the Labelling Body:** | Not Applicable |
| **OFLC No:** | 401341 |

**Unexcised version of publication:**

| | **Components** | **Running time** |
|---|---|---|
| **Menu:** | Start<br>Chapters<br>Photos<br>Call Us! | |
| **Feature:** | The Teen Files | 343.51 |
| **Other timed components:** | Phone Sex Notices<br>Call Us! | 2.22<br>2.00 |
| **Other components:** | FBI Warning / Records Notices | |
| **Total running time:** | | 348.13 |

**Excisions:** Excisions Recommended But Not Made

**Reasons for excisions:**

Three excisions are required to the DVD. Two of the excisions are required in order to remove scenarios that have the effect of tending to promote and support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes. The third excision is required to remove a sequence in which a woman is highly degraded, dehumanised and demeaned by the manner in which she is treated and presented.

**Summary of reasons for classification:**

The DVD entitled *The Teen Files* is classified as:
Objectionable.

This classification is because the publication tends to promote and support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes, and describes and depicts sexual conduct of a degrading, dehumanising and demeaning nature in a manner that is injurious to the public good.

The publication presents depictions of sexual activity between men and women, with a particular focus upon the women's bodies. The owner/distributor of the publication was given the option of excising three sequences in order to remove material that caused the publication as a whole to be objectionable. However, the owner/distributor refused to make the excisions.

Two of the excisions were required to remove sequences which result in the publication tending to promote and support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes under s3(2)(a) of the Films, Videos, and Publications Classification Act 1993 (FVPC Act). These sequences normalise, and present as titillating, scenarios in which inexperienced young persons engage in sexual activity.

There are varying degrees of degrading, dehumanising and demeaning conduct and behaviour throughout the publication but one sequence is of particular concern to the Office of Film and Literature Classification (Classification Office). The sequence contains depictions of degrading, demeaning and dehumanising conduct that are strong in degree, the effect of which is increased by the presentation. This sequence is without mitigating factors to its degrading, demeaning and dehumanising effect, and stands out in the video recording and, as such, presents a significant risk of injury to the public good. Likely injury lies in the publication's association of abusive and degrading, dehumanising and demeaning behaviour with sexual activity and sexual arousal given the nature of the publication and its intended purpose of adult male sexual arousal. This association is likely to reinforce negative attitudes towards women in general.

The Classification Office has considered the effects of the New Zealand Bill of Rights 1990 on the application of the classification criteria elsewhere in these reasons. The classification of this publication interferes with the freedom of expression, but this is an outcome that is consistent with Parliament's intention that publications falling under s3(2) of the FVPC Act are deemed to be objectionable. The classification is also a reasonable limitation on the freedom of expression that reflects the concern of a free and democratic society to limit the availability of publications that tend to promote and support the exploitation of young persons for sexual purposes.